THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) National Biothethics Committee set up by the Department of Bio-Technology (DBT) with the approval of Hon'ble Minister of Science and Technology in its sixth meeting recommended promotion of stem cell research in the country in view of its vast potential and its clinical use. There are no special legal or ethical problems in respect of stem cells, derived from adults, bone marrows or foetal cord blood. However, in respect to embryonic stem cells the Government does not allow generation of embryos for the sole purpose of obtaining stem cells. Only surplus or spare of supernumerary embryos can be used with the permission of couples from registrered Assisted Reproductive Technique (ART) clinics.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was requested by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) to prepare appropriate guidelines to help in regulation of stem cell research and its application. Accordingly, a drafting committee provided brief guidelines for regulatory aspect of stem cell research to DCGI. These draft guidelines have been put on the website of the ICMR. The guidelines suggested constituting a multidisciplinary National Apex Committee (NAC) to monitor stem cell research activities in the country. It was also emphasized that newer technology should be thoroughly examined before approving any research. It was further suggested that this committee should examine all proposals involving stem cells of any source. Centres involved in stem cell research should be registered with the committee. Currently in the absence of a National Committee, an Expert Committee has been constituted to monitor and review stem cell research activities under ICMR.

The issues regarding legislation and ethical issues involved in stem cell research are being discussed by a joint working group of ICMR and DBT.

Port connectivity project in Orissa

1808. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Rs. 5720 crore worth of port connectivity project to change the roadmap for trade;

(b) if so, the details of this ambitious plan;

(c) the status of the project and the time-frame by which it would be completed; and

(d) the details of projects that would be taken up in Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) NHAI has been assigned the task of upgrading road connectivity to 12 major ports in the country. The details of these projects, including the project in the Orissa State, along with their cost, status and the time frame of completion is given in the Statement.

Statement

Details of port Connectivity Projects

Sl. No.	Name of Port	Scope of Work	Total approved Project Cost (Rs crores)	Awarded Cost of Civil Works (Rs in crores)	Length in Km.	Details of funding	Status of Works
1	Kandla	Four laning of km. 306 362 160 on NH-8A	197.77	121 48	56.16	NHAI funded	Completed in July 2002
2	Mumbai	-	-	-	30	-	Mumbai Port Trust is taking up this work by itself.
3.	Jawaharlal Nehru Port	Phase I: Four laning of NH-4B from Km. 0.000 to 26.987 and four laning of NH-4 from km. 106.000 to 109.500.	177.00	142 72	30	SPV	Work in progress Likely completion: April 2005
		Phase. II: Four laning of SH-54 from km. 6.400 to 14.500	143.00	127.21	14 35	SPV	Work in progress Scheduled date of completion: May 2007

Sl. No.	Name of Port	Scope of Work	Total approved Project Cost (Rs. crores)	Awarded Cost of Civil Works (Rs. in crores)	Length in Km.	Details of funding	Status of Works
4	Mormugao	Four laning of NH-17B from Veena Junction on NH-17 to Mormugao Port	80.00	53	18 (Presently 13.1 km. is taken up)	SPV	Work completed for 13.1 km.in June 2004 Balance stretch of 5 km. may be taken up at a later stage.
5	New Mangalore	Four laning of NH-17 (Suratkal-Nantur section), NH-48 (Padil-Bantwal section) & a bypass from Nantur juction on NH-17 to Padil Junction on NH-48	196.50	-	37.5	SPV	Bid has been re-invited. Anticipated completion date is 30 months from date of commencement
6	Cochin	Four laning of NH-47 from km. 348.382 to 358.750	106.00	79.53	10.40	SPV	Work in progress and likely completion by August 2006
7	Tuticorin	Four laning of NH-7A from km. 4.000 to 51.200	231.20	137.80	47.2	SPV	Work in progress and likely completion by August 2006
8	Chennai	Chennai-Ennore Port Connectivity Project-Chennai Ennore express way including sea protection work, TPP Road, Inner Ring Road, Manali Oil Refinery Road	161.00	105.00	30.00	SPV	Sea protection work along Ennore Expressway is in progress and likely completion for the entire project is December 2007.

Sl. No.	Name of Port	Scope of Work	Total approved Project Cost (Rs. crores)	Awarded Cost of Civil Works (Rs. in crores)	Length in Km.	Details of funding	Status of Works
9	Vishakha-patnam	Vishakhapatnam Port Connectivity	94.00	77.78	12.47	SPV	Work in progress and likely completion by December 2005
10	Paradip	Four laning of NH-5A from km 0.00 to 77.00	427.40	327.77	77.00	SPV	Work in progress and likely completion by Febuary 2007
11	Haldia	Four laning of NH-41 from km 0.500 to 52.700	273.00	219.99	52.2	SPV	Work in progress and likely completion by June 2006
12	Kolkata (Excluding Barasat Bypass)	-	-	-	68	-	Preliminary financial analysis for ascertaining project viability through SPV is under examination.
	TOTAL:		2086.87	2392.28	483.28		

Development of Cochi port

1809. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign Companies have been given any contract to work/ develop the Cochi port;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the ports that are being developed/operated in joint ventures by the foreign companies?